

Church has no "two party" system say renewal speakers

By Patti Stephenson

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)—Proclaiming Christ's church was not created as a "two-party system" which elevates clergy above laity, participants of the 11th annual lay renewal conference explored the biblical meanings of ministry in an effort to "authenticate the calling of the people in the pews to minister." Three of the five major speakers have Mississippi ties.

The conference, sponsored by the evangelism support department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, drew more than 300 Southern Baptist laypersons. An estimated 250 remained in the Northeast after the meeting to lead lay renewal seminars in 30 Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, New York, and Connecticut churches.

The lay renewal seminars focus on the laypersons' spiritual journeys and help them discover their gifts for ministry, explained Reid Hardin, HMB evangelism support director.

Jack Smith, evangelism director of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, reported "extraordinary revival and overflow crowds with many people renewing commitments" in Pennsylvania churches as a result of the seminars. More area churches are scheduled to hold the seminars next spring, Smith said.

The conference featured addresses by Kenneth Lyle, a graduate of Mississippi College and executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland; Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Anthony Campolo, sociology professor at Eastern College, St. Davids, Pa.; Robert Hamblin, former pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and HMB vice president of evangelism; and Dorothy Sample, na-

tional president of the SBC's Woman's Missionary Union.

Lyle described the church as a "new society of gifted people" whose structure should not be hierarchical. "The church today is like a cadaver, it needs rebirth of the priesthood of all believers," he said. "Christ did not ordain a two-party system."

The present distinction between clergy and laity is like a "cork in a bottle and the laity are ready to blow out the cork."

God's call is never to status but to service, he noted. "We need to stop asking whether we should ordain women and ask whether we should ordain anyone."

Cooper claimed the "greatest heresy in Southern Baptist life is not that we expect each other to believe the same way but that we have two classes of Christians—clergy and lai-

ty. Nothing in the New Testament justifies it."

Christ commissioned every follower, paid the same price for the salvation of each and requires the same commitment from clergy and laity, Cooper stressed. "The Christian army is the only one where you can join without submitting to training, discipline, or duty," he charged. "It's the only army whose officers get 95 percent of the training and fight most of the war by issuing commands which are never carried out by the soldiers."

Hamblin warned the separation between clergy and laity "keeps us from evangelizing." Southern Baptists will never achieve Bold Mission Thrust goals "unless all of us become obsessed with doing what Christ ordered us to do—bring every person to himself."

(Patti Stephenson writes for the Home Mission Board.)

"Pray God's hand upon us"

By James F. Yates, president
Mississippi Baptist Convention

Dear Fellow Mississippi Baptists:

Convention time is always an exciting time for Mississippi Baptists. It is a great time for fellowship. Moments of inspiration through music and Bible treasures are always eagerly anticipated. Sermons and addresses challenge and inform us.

Beyond all this, important as they are, we come together primarily to transact the business of our Convention. We adopt a budget, we consider resolutions, we commit ourselves to new programs, and listen to reports. All of these things have significance in the light of what Mississippi Baptists are seeking to accomplish for the Kingdom of God.

Churches are encouraged to have their full complement of messengers elected and present for every session Nov. 14-16 at Jackson's First Baptist Church. Pray that God's hand might be upon us in all our deliberations.

Committee asks speeches to nominate be limited

Joe McKeever, chairman of the Order of Business Committee for the 1983 Mississippi Baptist Convention has reported that the committee recommends messengers "adhere to a long-established custom of limiting nominating speeches for officers to two minutes." This year, in addition to election of the first and second vice presidents, a new president is expected to be elected since James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City is completing his second one year term, the traditional limit.

McKeever commented on other aspects of the tentative program which messengers are asked to approve at the beginning of the convention. "The people selected to give testimonies are 'real' people," said McKeever. "They were chosen prayerfully on the basis of their commitment to Christ and present service in the Kingdom—not because they had been in 'the far country' or drugs or crime prior to their conversion."

He said that the invitation of Helen Jean Parks may mark two firsts—the first woman taking the role of "Bible Treasure" speaker for all sessions, and the first agency chief's wife.

McKeever noted that the program this year has more content than in 1982. A number of requests for additional time included special presentations such as Mose Dangerfield, Church Training department director, leading five minute segments on "developing believers," and a 15-minute presentation on starting new churches.

As to the convention itself, McKeever said that programs cannot bring excitement to people that will lead them to win people to Christ, "but spirit-filled men and women who speak and sing for Christ can. Let us pray for that kind of impact."

Other members on the Order of Business Committee with McKeever are Ervin Brown, Hernando; John Armis-

tead, Tupelo; Bob Hanvey, Hazlehurst; Larry Kennedy, Laurel; George McFadin, Horn Lake; and James Yates, Yazoo City, ex officio.

Yellow fever outbreak fought by Baptists

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—To help curb the worst outbreak of yellow fever in West Africa since the 1930s, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has ordered 100,000 doses of vaccine for Ghana and is looking for a volunteer to accompany it.

The vaccine, two immunization guns, and volunteer are expected to be on their way within a week. John Mills, director for West Africa, said Oct. 31. He just returned from a trip to West Africa, where he learned of the yellow fever outbreak in Ghana and nearby Upper Volta.

Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu, Ghana, reported about 30 deaths from yellow fever and about 100 patients believed to have the disease but apparently recovering, Mills said.

Missionaries at the hospital are organizing a vaccination program requested by the Ghana government to help curb the outbreak in the Nalerigu area, he said.

The request for 100,000 doses of vaccine was based on a recent measles vaccination campaign in which missionaries administered 50,000 doses to children under 12.

In Mali, he and missionary Norman Coad visited the country's minister of health, who requested help with a vaccination campaign on Mali's eastern border with Upper Volta. Mills said the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended encircling the outbreak with vaccination and then moving into the center to wipe it out.



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At FBC, Jackson

MBC theme: "Suffering World; Sufficient God"

"A Suffering World: A Sufficient God" is the theme for the 1983 Mississippi Baptist Convention set for Nov. 14-16 at First Baptist Church, Jackson. The theme is taken from II Corinthians 3:5.

The first session of the six session convention will be called to order at 1:30 the afternoon of Nov. 14 by President James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City.

That session will include the president's address by Yates, who is concluding his second one year term as MBC president. Prior to his message, the sanctuary choir of First Church, Yazoo City, will sing.

Also during the first session, Keith Cating, Baptist Student Union director at Ole Miss, will give his testimony, and Helen Jean Parks will lead the first of her "Bible Treasure" messages. Mrs. Parks, wife of Keith Parks, president of the Southern Bap-

tist Foreign Mission Board, will give a devotional message during each of the six convention sessions.

The session's "Message in Song" will be given by Eric McNair, minister of music at Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie.

The Monday evening session will feature the state convention program which will chart recent progress in board activities. The Mississippi Singing Churchmen will perform. And Robert Upchurch, a layman from Calvary Church, Tupelo, will give his testimony.

Mose Dangerfield, director of the MBCB Church Training Department, will give the first of several talks on "Developing Believers," a focus of Church Training this year.

The third session begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday morning with the call to worship. Frank Schwall Jr., marketing director for the Annuity Board, will deliver a message that session. Wayne Burks, pastor of Bolton Church, Bolton, will give a testimony. And a business session will include consideration of the 1983 Cooperative Program budget and election of the MBC president.

That afternoon at 2 p.m., the fourth session begins. Grady Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board, will give the message and Chester W. Griffin Jr., a member of First Church, Col-

umbus, will give a testimony. Lynn May, director of SBC Historical Commission, will present a special plaque to First Church, Winona, where Arthur Flake was once a staffer. Flake is credited with defining basic principles used in the modern Sunday School.

That evening at 7 p.m., the fifth session begins. It will include the convention sermon, this year to be preached by Charles Myers, retiring pastor of Alta Woods Church, Jackson, preceded by the sanctuary choir of that church. The testimony will be by Mrs. Rebecca Williams, wife of the pastor of First Church, Gautier.

And the sixth and final session begins Wednesday morning at 9. Two messages will be delivered that session, one by Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary, the other by John L. Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., and first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. George Lee, director of missions for Marion, Walthall, and Lawrence Counties, will give his testimony. Special music will be by Lester Mason of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; Robert Goodman of First Church, McComb; and by Bob Hatsfield of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood. That morning the resolutions committee will make its report.

Convention musicians include Eva Hart, pianist, and Bobbie Butler, organist.

Internationals

The recent International Student Conference, sponsored by the Student Work Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, drew 85 participants from 27 countries to Clinton's Camp Garaywa. Program organizers say that many come to the program equating being American with being a Christian. The purpose of the conference is to show Christianity is a personal relationship with Jesus. At left a student dons his native garb. Below, featured speaker George Braswell of Southern Seminary talks with students.



Mississippi in top ten in all giving categories

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Contributions to the national Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention broke the \$100 million barrier for the first time during 1982-83.

Total gifts to the worldwide mission and education causes of the SBC totaled \$102,313,308 when the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, an increase of 9.61 percent and \$8,968,952 over 1981-82.

September gifts of \$9,008,042 from the 34 state Southern Baptist conventions underwrote the basic operating budget of \$100 million and 32 percent of the \$6 million challenge budget.

The first \$500,000 above the basic budget will be divided among the six SBC seminaries and the remaining \$2.7 million will be divided on a percentage basis among all the agencies. Almost 72 percent will go to the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board.

The increases were seen all across the country as 32 of the 34 state conventions increased gifts to the national programs.

The individual Southern Baptist in Florida had the most impact on the national programs.

Florida's average gift was \$9.62, followed closely by Oklahoma at \$9.58. The national per capita gift was \$7.31. Florida and Mississippi were the

only state conventions to be in the top 10 in per capita giving, percentage increase over 1981-82 contributions, and total dollar amount contributed. Twenty-one of the 34 state conventions are in the top 10 in at least one category.

The leading per capita state conventions are mostly from the deep South—yet Maryland is fifth and Hawaii is eighth.

The other per capita figures were: (3) Louisiana, \$8.60; (4) South Carolina, \$8.33; (5) Maryland, \$8.16; (6) Arkansas, \$8.09; (7) Mississippi, \$8.01; (8) Texas, \$7.94; (9) Hawaii, \$7.61; (10) Alabama, \$7.74.

In total dollar giving nine of the 34 state conventions contributed more than \$5 million to the national programs, and 28 of the 34 supported the worldwide mission and education efforts of the SBC with more than \$100,000 each.

National rankings by dollar amounts were: (1) Texas, \$18,300,447; (2) Georgia, \$8,456,833; (3) Florida, \$8,061,318; (4) North Carolina, \$7,079,535; (5) Alabama, \$6,820,070; (6) Oklahoma, \$6,726,254; (7) Tennessee, \$6,124,707; (8) South Carolina, \$5,633,699; (9) Mississippi, \$5,060,517; (10) Louisiana, \$4,751,441.

The state conventions with the high-

(Continued on page 4)

24 more languages last year

The Word is out and spreading . . .

COLUMBUS, Ohio (EP)—Various mission literature projects have been funded by Bible Literature International. In Africa, 3,000 copies of "The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes" were distributed to children in Zaire by Africa Inland Mission. Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries provided Bibles and hymnals for the Jula tribe in Upper Volta. In Bolivia, New Tribes Mission is giving Old Testament portions to several tribes.

In El Salvador, missionary Jess Adams obtained 1,000 Bibles for \$1 each, which he used with follow-up literature for a hospital visitation program. Bible Literature International continues to provide literature for the "Day of Witness" program sponsored by OMS International, according to Missionary News Service.

Meanwhile, other mission agencies continue to forge ahead with Bible translation and literature production and distribution around the world. Among the new successes are these, according to MNS:

In Sudan, Operation Mobilization held its third "floating Bible" exhibition on a ferry boat. This year's effort was carried out almost entirely by Sudanese. The exhibition included showing the film, "Jesus." While the ferry plied the Nile River, people listened to testimonies and watched

skits.

Well over one million Scriptures were distributed in Egypt last year by the Egypt Bible Society, a 38 percent increase over the previous year.

Two Boeing 707 jets, loaded with Bibles, were sent by the British and Foreign Bible Society to Uganda. Previous surface shipments of Bibles took a year to get there. Every fifth grader in Uganda is supposed to have an English Bible for study; some 200,000 children enter fifth grade each year. The jets brought in 50,000 English Bibles and 50,000 Luganda Bibles.

The Pocket Testament League distributed 81,000 Gospels in various city, town, and village campaigns in Brazil.

Over a year ago, 300 English New Testaments inadvertently were sent to Paraguay. They were laid aside, but when war broke out over the Falkland Islands, the Bible Society of Paraguay got in touch with the British Embassy, which had the New Testaments shipped to British soldiers to meet a shortage among the troops.

The Russian Orthodox Church has a renewed interest in publishing. A staff of 150 works out of a new three-story building. In addition to Bibles, the center publishes a monthly journal and books of theological studies and litur-

gical aids. Five Bible printings have appeared since 1956, in modest press runs of 25,000 and 50,000 copies, not nearly enough for a church of 60 million adherents. The church is publishing a major series of works on Russian saints, in preparation for its 1988 millennium celebrations.

Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Summer Institute of Linguistics completed the translation of the New Testament into 200 indigenous languages. The officially designated 200th New Testament was a translation into the Hanga language of Ghana. Through the combined efforts of many organizations, the Bible or portions of it have now been translated into 1,763 languages. There are still 3,000 languages with no Bible.

A group of young believers at the Bible Center in Meritz, France, aims to reach every home in the city of 40,000 people with the Gospel of John. The Pocket Testament League provided the first 2,000 copies.

The American Bible Society reports that last year a part of the Bible appeared in 24 more languages for the first time. With an increase of 23, the number of languages with the New Testament totals 551. There are 279 languages with complete Bibles.

Following a visit to Poland, Alice Ball, chief executive of

the American Bible Society, reported an "open door" to Scripture printing. However, there are shortages of paper, ink, and binding materials. Scriptures can be produced in Poland for about half of what it costs in Western countries. Last year's distribution totals included 150,000 Bibles, 45,000 New Testaments, and 20,000 cassettes of recorded Scriptures for the blind. Despite these records figures, there are not enough Bibles to meet the demands of the churches.

After being threatened with expulsion in 1977, the Summer Institute of Linguistics (Wycliffe Bible Translators) in 1979 was given a new 10-year agreement by the government of Peru. The work is moving ahead in all parts of the country. A new push is underway in the highlands, where 19 dialects of Quechua await translation. Four New Testaments were published before 1976, twelve have been printed since, and three more are nearing publication. Scripture portions have been published in many more languages. Work is in progress in 28 jungle groups and nine highland groups. The official attitude toward SIL has turned completely around. In 1961 the president gave the late Cameron Townsend, Wycliffe's founder, the highest award that can be given to a foreigner.

Editorials.....by don mcgregor

A nativity scene at Christmas

The use by governmental bodies of nativity scenes at Christmas is becoming a matter of more than ordinary concern as court cases are beginning to pop up. The latest such case involves the city of Pawtucket, R.I., where a nativity scene has been a part of a much larger Christmas display for many years.

Each year the city puts up its big Christmas display, including the nativity scene. The display is financed by city funds, which are taken from citizens in the form of taxes. The American Civil Liberties Union has brought suit, claiming this violates the no establishment clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Perhaps it does. I wouldn't argue that. When a governmental body uses taxpayers' money to put up a religious symbol, it cannot help but smack of religious preference.

Where the rub comes in these cases, however, is that if Christmas is going to be celebrated at all, then it is going to have to be a religious observation or it is going to be perverted. Christmas is a religious observation. There just is no escaping that.

The Pawtucket display includes a talking wishing well, a miniature New England village, a Santa's house with a live Santa Claus, a team of reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh, and cutouts of other figures that have become associated with the Christmas observation.

The lower courts ruled against the city. Arguments have been heard by the United States Supreme Court, and a decision is expected before Christmas. Very likely the Supreme Court will uphold the lower courts' decision.

I don't claim to be smart enough to provide an answer. I agree that the Jewish people, for instance, have a reason not to be happy when their tax

money is used to put up a nativity scene. On the other hand, to tell a city that it could not use any decorations or displays at all if it could not use a nativity scene likely would instigate a rebellion by taxpayers of all religious persuasions and those of no religion at all.

And there is the heart of the matter. In its own defense the city of Pawtucket enunciated the condition that has come about that makes this question one that is difficult to come to grips with. In its arguments before the Supreme Court, the city said that the nativity scene is but a minor part of a larger secular celebration. City lawyers declared that Christmas as it is to be found in the United States is a national folk festival and is "a vast conglomeration of folk customs and symbols, feasting and fraternizing, music, literature, and art. The religious origins in the holiday have evolved into a secular humanism."

The city is right, and what a shame that is. It means that the secular world has taken Christmas away from Christians. It means that we are caught up in a gigantic whirlwind of celebrations that have nothing to do with the reason for beginning the observation.

Somehow I will have to agree with the lower courts in their ruling against the city. If the attitude is that Christmas is a secular observation, then the nativity scene has no place in the display anyway. We Christians should be just as interested in keeping it out of the display as the other folks are.

The whole thing is an indictment against the witness that we have exerted as Christians, however. We can't stop the world from trying to take over our observation if it wants to. What we have failed to do is convince the world of the true meaning of the observation.

The observation itself should be a testimony instead of a celebration.



Letters to the Editor

Mississippi prayers

answered

Editor: Southern Baptist Missionaries John and Kathy McNair presented a concert in honor of Mrs. Gregorio Alvarez, wife of the president of Uruguay. The concert was held at the home of U.S. Ambassador Thomas Aranda in Montevideo on Sep. 28. In addition to Uruguay's first lady, wives of the president's cabinet members were also present.

The concert was to be composed of secular music. However, at the close of the program, Dr. McNair announced that Kathy would sing a classical number, a song of hope. The song was Felix Mendelssohn's "I Waited for the Lord." The president's wife was very appreciative of the concert and of that song, McNair said.

"The many prayers of Southern Baptists that our presence and performance might be a witness and testimony to the love of Christ were answered in a marvelous way," McNair added.

The McNairs, who are Mississippians, arrived in Uruguay in 1982, after serving in India and Spain. They are assigned to do student work and music. Dr. McNair serves on the faculty of the medical school of the national university in Uruguay, and Mrs. McNair is professor of music at the Uruguayan Baptist seminary.

Betty Poor
Missionary to Uruguay

Salute to pianist

Words cannot express the regret the people of the Pace Baptist Church feel as Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Symonds move to Little Rock, Arkansas in mid-November. They have long been an active part of the church and community life and will be much missed.

Erna Dudley Symonds came to Pace with her family when she was 12 years of age and began her service to the Lord as pianist for the Pace Baptist Church. She continued as pianist until she went away to college at Delta State University. She was active at Delta State in her role as pianist, for she played for choral groups, soloists, etc.

After one semester on campus, she came home to live and again assumed her job as pianist for the church. Except for 3 years when she taught out of Bolivar County, and one year when her health was such she could not play, she has served the church and community for over 50 years.

Erna has a special touch when she plays for the "feels" the music. It is a worship experience just to hear her play the hymns she knows and loves.

She has played for weddings (mine in Jackson) and for funerals for a host of people from our church and neighboring churches and for revivals. There is no way to say a proper thank you and she does not expect one, but she deserves to be recognized by those of us who love her and have appreciated her music through the years. Thank you, Erna!

W. P. Skelton, Pace

Book Reviews

HAIL MARY, ARE YOU HEEDING THE BLESSED VIRGIN? (In defense of Public Schools); by H. Leo Eddleman; 125 pages; Exposition Press, Inc., 325 Rabro Drive, Smithtown, New York; paper back; \$4.

The author is president of Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville, Ky. He has been professor of Old Testament and Semitic languages at the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas and president of New Orleans Seminary. He is well acquainted with the education process and has spent his career in religious (Baptist) schools. Yet he realizes the danger of the United States government helping to pay the bill for religious schools, and

this book is a plea to give public support to public schools.

Eddleman maintains that religious institutions should not be tax exempt while governmental bodies are expecting those who are not church related to pay taxes to support religion in schools. By the same token, he says, those who send their children to religious schools should not receive tax deductions to help pay tuition. If this happens, he points out, other taxpayers must make up the difference, and this is compulsory support of religion.

Eddleman declares that the United States is fortunate in that church and state have been kept separate, and he says that corruption results from the merger of the two. He notes the great lengths that the founding fathers went to in order to establish the separation of church and state.

Eddleman is a native of Morgantown, Miss. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary and in addition to previously mentioned positions he has been president of Georgetown College, professor at Southern Seminary, and president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies.—DTM

GOD'S WISDOM—GOD'S WAY, (STUDIES IN FIRST CORINTHIANS) by Hardy R. Denham Jr.; JM Publications; P. O. Box 837, Brentwood, Tenn., 37027; 52 pages; \$3.50.

This is the 12th in a series of study books on the Bible written by the author. This one was written for the January Bible Study in 1984. There is background information including The Contacts with Corinth, The Correspondences to the Church, and The Content of First Corinthians.

The introduction sections are God's People Are Saved, God's People Are Saints, and God's People Are Servants. Part I of the book is titled God's Wisdom for the Church, and it has two chapters. They are God's Wisdom for a Divided Church and God's Wisdom for a Disobedient Church.

The title for Part II is God's Way for the Church. The five chapters in that section are God's Way for Marriage, God's Way Regarding Freedom, God's Way in Worship, God's Way with Gifts, and God's Way to Victory.

In the center of the book is a teaching outline.

The book may be obtained at the Baptist Bookstore; at the Mississippi Baptist Convention, where Denham will have a special display; or from Denham himself at P.O. Box 523, Newton, Miss. 39345.

Guest opinion . . .

The biblical foundations of missions

By Julius C. Thompson

Someone asked, "Where in the world did those Baptists get the notion of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person in the world by the year 2000? Why this overriding, all-consuming drive to win over the world and develop believers in the faith?" What is the compelling force behind Bold Missions? The answer to such questions may be found by looking at (1) the purpose of God, (2) the ministry of Christ, (3) the message of the Bible, (4) and the mission of the church.

The purpose of God

The drama of creation depicts God taking the initiative to create. "In the beginning God created" (Gen 1:1). God freely chose to create the world. He did not have to create, but he chose to do so according to his sovereign purpose.

Thoughtful persons may ask, why did God create the world? What was his purpose? There is that breathless moment in the great drama, Green Pastures, when God rests in his eternal solitude and aloneness, musing about what to do. Then he said, "I'm lonely. I'll make a world." God did create the heavens and the earth; and in the creative process he said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . so God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:26-27). God voluntarily chose to glorify himself in the creation of life and in the sharing of himself with mankind.

God saw the land, vegetation, animals, mankind, and said, "It is very good" (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 25, 31). God was pleased with his perfect order.

God's aim in creation was to make man like himself, free so that he could, of his own choice, respond to God in love and faith. Paul said he destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ according to the purpose of his will" (Eph. 1:4-5).

Sometime after the world's happy beginning, God's purpose was marred by man's sin in the garden and the events that followed (Gen. 3). Man's sin set the world of material things, including himself, under a curse. Living under this curse in a fallen state, man finds it nearly impossible to appreciate the beauty, perfect order, and divine purpose of creation.

The ministry of Christ as Redeemer kind has chosen the path of disobedience and rebellion against God's purpose. The painful reality of sinfulness unfolds when Adam and Eve heard the voice of the Lord God calling, "Adam . . . where art thou?" (Gen. 3:9). And, like Adam, we have all walked the road of disobedience and rebellion. The missionary apostle has said, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom.

3:23).

Sin was and is a challenge to God's perfect order. Sin distorts, sin thwarts, sin mars God's purposeful plan, but sin can never destroy his purpose. God has a plan to reclaim man and the world, and that plan is Jesus Christ, the Redeemer.

From the beginning God has never changed his purpose. What God intended for man in the beginning is now his intent in reclaiming man to himself through Jesus Christ. Christ is the hope for sinful man. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us . . . full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). "That God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (I Cor. 5:19).

Through Jesus Christ the purposeful plan of God from the beginning became clear.

The ministry message of the Bible

God's great purposes for mankind are revealed in the Bible. In actual fact the Bible is indeed God's missionary in the world. It is in itself "missions" in the world. Hugh Martain has said, "The Bible is a missionary book, not because it contains isolated texts with a missionary flavor, but because the main line of argument that binds together all its volumes is the exposition, the unfolding, and the gradual execution of a missionary purpose."

The divine mission which God gave Israel in the Old Testament is more clearly brought into focus in the New Testament. By New Testament times the Jews were beginning to grasp the missionary thrust of the Old Testament. The gospels present Jesus for the whole world although he came immediately to the Jews.

Faces And Places.....by anne washburn mcwilliams

Calhoun City

October's bright blue weather continued right to the end of the month. On the 29th, W.D. and I accepted Lorene Goodson's invitation to "come on up to Calhoun City and spend the night with me and go to church with me tomorrow. And get these turnip greens and sweet potatoes I've been saving for you!" (She and the minister of music at First Church, Calhoun City, Jim Keyser, had picked up the potatoes at a potato farm.)

We drove up the Trace through a blaze of scarlet sumac and got there in time for a feast she called a snack—and, three hours later, a supper fit for a king, or a queen either. If I tried to name all she had on the menu it would take half this page. I expect. Chicken and dressing, homemade rolls, lemon pie, four or five vegetables, etc. . . .

She'd invited the Calhoun director of missions, Marvin Bibb, and his wife, to supper, and we had a good time talking and eating. (Brother Bibb said he's also directing Yalobusha missions now, and goes over to Water Valley a couple of times a month.)

Lorene is always doing things for other people, like making potholders for missionaries (her potholders are in use around the world), painting a porch floor for a shut-in, picking up litter along the roadside, or cooking lunch for prisoners. She has been to California twice with Calhoun County teams, when the men built churches and the women cooked. Ask her some time about that funny incident that happened on the plane!

"Here's a card I got last spring when I was in the hospital after I broke my hip," she said. It was signed, "To the best friend I ever had—from Debbie."

"That's Debbie Rutherford," she said. "She was born in Vardaman, but has lived next door to me since she was eight. I want you to meet her. She's a living miracle."

Soon Debbie came over and I did get to meet her. She's 16, with long blonde hair and big blue eyes, an 11th grader in Calhoun City High School. "Tell me about your operation," I said.

Early in 1983 she began having severe headaches, and doctors diagnosed her problem as coarctation of the aorta (or narrowing of the main artery that carries blood from the heart to be distributed to branch arteries through the body.)

She's a little over four feet tall (I'm guessing), and not until the coarctation was discovered, I understand, did she learn why she had not grown taller. (Too little blood being sent to the tributary arteries.)

Immediately, in March, she went to Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis. The night before her open heart surgery took place, every one of the youth choir members of First Church, Calhoun City (she's one of them, often a soloist) talked with her by long distance telephone to assure her of their love and to say they were praying for her.

Everything went well. "I came home from the hospital on a Monday, and went to church the next Sunday," she recalled. And Lorene added, "We were all so thrilled when Debbie came walking into the sanctuary that Sunday, at the head of the youth choir as they marched in!"



Debbie

Debbie said she feels great now, and her activities have not lessened. In school she plays cymbals in the concert band and is a member of Drama Club. At church (she's been a Christian since age 10), she's still in choir and a member of Youth Council. She helps her mother at home—likes to cook. (She's the daughter of James and Nancy Rutherford and has three brothers, ages 20, 18, and 11). She works part time at a flower shop.

"What would you like to do after you finish high school?" I asked.

"Study at a police academy and then be a policewoman," she said. "Watching television shows about police work always fascinated me."



Debbie Rutherford, left center, connects red yarn, neck to toe, to the next in line in her relay team. It was masquerade party time, Saturday night before Halloween, at First Church, Calhoun City.

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Tim Nicholas Associate Editor
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

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Thursday, November 10, 1983

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Staff changes made by directors of HMB

By Patti Stephenson

ATLANTA (BP)—Eight persons were named to fill staff positions and five staff jobs were created by directors of the Home Mission Board during their October meeting.

Because of the increased demand for comprehensive data in missions planning, the directors approved restructuring of the HMB's Research Division to include two departments.

The program research department will be headed by Clay L. Price, a missions researcher since 1979. Jack Washington, presently the division's services researcher, will act as the department's associate director. Their previous positions were eliminated.

Phillip B. Jones, currently the division's associate director, will direct the planning and services research department. An associate director will be elected later.

Price, a graduate of the University of Texas, and West Georgia College, will oversee research projects for the missions and evangelism sections.

Kenneth E. Carter, pastor of First Church, Miami, Okla., was elected director of the associational evangelism department, a position he held previously from 1979 to 1982. Carter will help

develop a comprehensive evangelism strategy for associations.

Jere Allen was promoted from associate director to director of the metropolitan missions department, succeeding Don Hammer, now a professor at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He will help research needs and design techniques for expanding SBC work in metropolitan communities.

C. William Junker, director of the promotion department since 1980, was elected director of the editorial department, succeeding Walker L. Knight, who retired in March. Junker will oversee production of home missions books, the HMB's magazine, news and information services, and typesetting. He was with the Baptist Sunday School Board in student work, 1957-79.

Myra A. Book, an HMB secretary since 1962, was elected director of deputization services. She will succeed Ernestine Adams, upon her retirement at the end of the year. Book will enlist and deploy home mission speakers for world mission conferences and other events.

(Patti Stephenson writes for the Home Mission Board.)



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Women deacons, controversy not new in Baptist churches

By Leisa Hammett

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Baptists have been ordaining women—and disagreeing about it—almost as long as there have been Baptists.

Neither ordained women nor controversy is new to Baptist life, according to three Southern Baptist historians. What is new—among Southern Baptists, at least—is the increasing number of women in visible leadership roles and the ordination of women to pastoral ministries.

"The presence of women deacons is not something new in our denomination," says Lynn E. May, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission.

Historical Commission Director of Editorial Services, Charles W. Deweese added that in recent years women's ordination to the diaconate and their appointments to chair positions seem to have increased even in a few large and prominent Southern Baptist churches.

Added Leon McBeth: "Baptists have not always been this uptight about the church roles of women."

McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, pointed

out, "Minutes, diaries and literature show women have historically exercised leadership roles in the church."

"Women have testified, exhorted, led prayer meetings, and preached," he said. Church minutes show some early churches in the South had elders and elderesses, deacons and deaconesses.

Baptist conflict over women's roles emerged in the early 1600s, and intruded into the United States by the mid 1700s.

Southern Baptists brought the twin traditions of ordaining women and fussing about it with them when they organized in 1845.

Two groups making up Southern Baptists—Separate Baptists in North and South Carolina and Regular Baptists of the coastal regions like Charleston and Richmond—held differing views on the role of women.

The Regular Baptists were stricter about women's roles while the Separate Baptists allowed women more participation in churches, including teaching and preaching.

The conflict emerged in recent associational meetings, as at least two associations refused to seat messen-

gers from churches which had ordained women.

Seventeen to 18 percent of the current seminary enrollment in Southern Baptist seminaries is female. During the World War I said McBeth, it was as high as 40 percent female in some seminaries.

To be admitted into seminary, prospective students have to be endorsed by their churches. The same churches that endorse women members for seminary training, said McBeth, will not provide them a place to serve.

"It's unfair. The problem is not getting the credentials, it is getting the placement. Women have ministered all through the years. But, not until recent years have they asked for formal credentials."

(Miss Hammett writes for the Historical Commission.)

Worship is one thing and entertainment is another, and it is dangerous business to play lightly with holy things, to tickle the senses in place of calling men to bow their hearts in faith and repentance before him who is Creator and Redeemer of us all.—John C. Neville, Jr.

Right to life issue argued

GOSHEN, Ind. (EP)—A coroner who has recorded the deaths of seven children born to members of the Faith Assembly says the fundamentalist sect's belief in faith healing raises two conflicting issues that only the Indiana Legislature can resolve. They are "the rights of individuals to worship as they want, and the right to life of infants that come within one or two breaths of being a human being," said Coroner Marvin Riegsecker.

In his seven years as Elkhart County coroner, Riegsecker has recorded nine deaths among members of the Faith Assembly: seven stillbirths during home deliveries, and the deaths of two mothers who died at home after delivery. The Fort Wayne News-Sentinel has documented 57 deaths of sect members in Indiana and in Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Louisiana.

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Annuity Board begins preretirement program

DALLAS—The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has launched a pilot project on preretirement education.

PEP, an acronym for Preretirement Education Program, provides Southern Baptist pastors, church personnel, and their spouses information on making long range plans for retirement.

Pauline Yancey, developer and coordinator of PEP said, "We enlist experts in their respected fields to address such issues as wills and estate planning, retirement programs, social security, insurance, housing, and health care."

Preretirement education is not a new concept. Yancey said that the top 10 corporations in the nation and several religious denominations provide their employees with information on retirement planning.

The Fall pilot project is being held in Texas churches and hosted by the associational missions offices. "If these programs are successful and the response is positive, we can make them available to Southern Baptist agencies and local associations throughout the nation," Yancey said.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said he first became aware of the need for such a program when reviewing a recent annuitant survey which showed more than 10,000 annuitants receiving less than \$150 per month.

From this information Morgan said that the board organized programs through the Endowment Department to supplement the incomes of the needy, adopted a new marketing program and annuity plan to encourage churches to provide adequate retirement contributions for church personnel, and is piloting the PEP project to educate Southern Baptist church personnel on their retirement needs.

Preretirement planning is not an easy program to promote, said Yancey. "People do not want to face the idea of growing old."

Yancey noted that the costs of the

one-day seminars are minimal and that persons interested in hosting a Preretirement Education Program seminar may contact her at the Annuity Board office in Dallas for details.

Homecomings

East Lincoln Church, near Brookhaven: homecoming; Nov. 13; James C. Harris, pastor; beginning at 10 a.m.; Bobby Jones, first pastor of the church, to bring the 11 a.m. message; covered dish luncheon; gospel singing at 2 p.m., featuring The Deacons, The Crossroads Quartet, and the K. C. Beeson Family.

Byram Church: joint homecoming and Thanksgiving celebration; Nov. 13; J. W. Brister, Hinds-Madison director of missions, speaker for the morning service; Johnny Presley, leading the music; covered dish dinner on the grounds; Pearl Quartet singing in the afternoon; Kenneth Harrison, pastor.

First, Lauderdale: Nov. 13; homecoming; Sunday School at 9:30 p.m.; Bobby Cossey, pastor, preaching at 11 a.m. service; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; dedication service in afternoon for new organ; Tom Harrison, music director.

Austrian growth

LINZ—Delegates from Austrian Baptist churches met in Linz Oct. 8-9 to discuss current needs of their congregations, cooperation with other churches, and relationships between established congregations and new works which they sponsor.

Membership reports showed an increase from just under 700 last year to 727 in the Union's nine churches. In addition, there are two English-language groups which meet in Vienna and Salzburg.

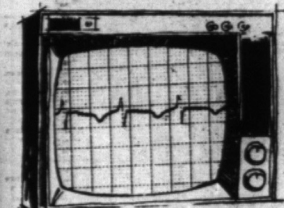
Staff Changes

Oct. 30 marked the first Sunday for Allen Mullan as pastor of Pope Church, at Pope. He had previously served as pastor of the Beachlawn Church, Virginia Beach, Va. He has also held pastorates in Mississippi, Texas, and Maryland. A graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary, he has done additional study at University of Mississippi in psychology and counseling. The new pastor and his wife, Jo Ann, were welcomed by the Pope congregation—"Kitchen Elves" had stocked the pantry; fresh flowers were placed in every room, and a fruit basket held a "welcome" note.

Fred Blalock, has resigned as minister of music at First, Fulton, after 11 years, to accept the post as minister of music at Cason Church, Nettleton. Wayne Vines is pastor at Cason.

Roy Moore has accepted the pastorate of Pleasant Grove Church, Chickasaw County. He and his wife, Millie, and son, Brian, moved from Hattiesburg. He is a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Evergreen Church, Winston County, has called Steve Quinn as minister of music and youth.



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Strong willed son?

My only son, who is 7½ years old, is very hard to control ever since my husband left us three years ago. From sunup to sunset he lies, talks back all the time, hits, throws things, and has a bad temper. I have to be on welfare because of back problems. I have a lot of time to play with him, but he always gets mad. He won't sleep in his own bed; and since I won't let him sleep with me, he gets upset and sleeps on the floor in my room. I love him very much, and I tell him this often but he treats me awful, and I don't know how much I can take. I even got to where I don't like going to church because I have to wrestle with him; and by the time I get to church, I wish I'd stayed home. Can you suggest something? Thank you.

K.F.

Dear K.F.: You and your son need professional help to work through his separation, anxiety, and grief. Contact the mental health department in your area for help in how to deal with him and how to get help for him. You need help together.

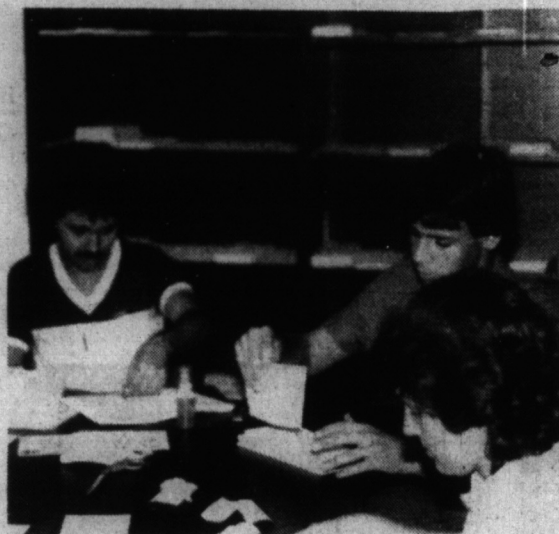
What you are facing is not an unusual grief reaction. You need to learn from his school and Sunday School teachers how he behaves away from you. The book *The Strong Willed Child*

by James Dobson may have some specific help for you. This may be in your church library, the pastor's library, or the public library.

You are correct in insisting that your son sleep in his own bed, but he needs the secure feeling of your love. Do you cuddle and caress him and tuck him in and have a quiet time of sharing some happy experience of the day and prayer before you tell him good night?

There is an inference about Sunday morning that suggests he is in the dawdling period. If this is true, the hassle might be lessened by getting him up early enough for an extra half hour of dawdling time. This would also mean giving attention to the bedtime hour on Saturday night.

Inquiries to Intensive Care are welcomed. Readers who feel the need of being in touch with Intensive Care are encouraged to write. Identities remain confidential. And though the identities of those performing this ministry have been kept confidential to this point, they are well qualified for the service they are rendering. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.—Editor



Carey plans prospect day

Jeff Murphy, Don Hayes, and Regina Reeves work on sending out thousands of letters to area schools and students for Prospective Student Day at Carey, Nov. 18.

South Mississippi high school and junior college students are invited to attend William Carey College's Prospective Student Day, Nov. 18. This is a day for students to tour the Hattiesburg campus, to meet faculty and students, and to see all that Carey has to offer.

Activities that day will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. Guests will be invited to attend a class, to meet with faculty advisors, and to attend workshops on such matters as financial aid and housing. Special entertainment will be provided during the free noon lunch. Carey graduate Wanda Geddie,

who is Miss Mississippi, will perform for the students. Carpenter's Wood, a musical group, will present a program of contemporary Christian music.

In the evening, visitors will be invited to a student faculty and administration volleyball game, a major theatre production, and open houses in both the men's and women's dorms. Housing will be provided Friday night for guests living beyond a 50 mile radius.

Further information may be obtained from the dean of admissions, William Carey College, (601) 582-5051.

Romanian church building bites dust after battle

BUCHAREST, Romania (EP)—A twenty-one-year battle to save a church ended Sept. 12 when Romania government-dispatched bulldozers leveled the building where one of the country's largest congregations met. In addition, members of that church in Bucharest say the government has reneged on promises to supply a suitable new meeting place.

The more than 800 members of the Sfinte Trieme Baptist Church—also known as Mihai Bravu—were notified that the structure would come down. A letter from city officials, which sources say the congregation's pastor, Vasile Talos, read at services Sept. 11, offered a new building to be used as a church.

The new building, located at Iulia Valoar 20, was formerly a small family-type dwelling place. However, the government letter guaranteed that renovation permits would be issued, well-placed sources report to

Maryland-based Christian Response International.

Talos and a delegation of church members Sept. 13 were shown documents which contained government approvals for the renovation and enlargement of the five-room building they had been given to use as a church. Yet the next day when they were supposed to pick up the permits, government workers said permission would "never" be granted and turned the representatives away empty handed.

More convention meals

Midwestern

Midwestern Seminary Alumni have announced plans for their state meeting during the Mississippi Baptist State Convention. They will meet at 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16, in Room 405 of the Baptist Building. During the noon luncheon they will hear Kermit McGregor, Mississippi's trustee for the Kansas City seminary, share news from the seminary, and will see a new video-tape presentation entitled "2007, An Adventure in Time For Eternity." The tape presents a golden anniversary panorama of the first 25 years of Midwestern's history and envisions the next 25 years which will culminate in 2007 A.D. McGregor, pastor at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will also be available to answer questions.

All MWBTS alumni, former trustees, family and friends are invited to attend.

Eleven Midwestern alumni currently serve in Mississippi, as pastors, staff members of churches, student workers, denominational workers, and in institutional ministries. State officers are Joe Young, pastor, Paul Church, Scooby, president; Ken Watkins, BSU director, Mississippi State University, Starkville, vice president; and Wallace Lee, Baptist Children's Village, Jackson, secretary-treasurer.

Cost for the luncheon is \$4.90 a plate, and reservations should be made with Wallace Lee, Box 11308, Jackson, Ms. 39213.

Chaplains

Mississippi Baptist Chaplains (career and volunteer chaplains), will gather for a fellowship dinner on Monday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. in the Sky Room in the Baptist Building.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

Nov. 14-16 Mississippi Baptist Convention; FBC, Jackson
Nov. 15 Video Awareness Breakfast; FBC, Jackson; 7-8:30 A.M. (CAPM)

Illinois church accuses others of biblical heresy

LOCKPORT, Ill. (BP)—A Southern Baptist church in Illinois has decided to treat two other Southern Baptist churches in the state, "as we would a Methodist, a Presbyterian, or other non-New Testament churches," over the issue of women ministers.

Lockport Missionary Baptist Church has "withdrawn fellowship" from Cornell Avenue Baptist Church in Chicago because it called a woman as pastor and from Crawford Avenue Baptist Church in Skokie, Ill., because it has licensed a woman to the ministry.

James R. Mathenia, pastor of the Lockwood church, told the Illinois Baptist the other churches had committed scriptural heresy.

"This means we will no longer recognize your church as being a New Testament church," Mathenia wrote the pastors of Cornell Avenue and Crawford Avenue churches. "We will not transfer or receive letters (of membership) from your church and we will not accept your churches' baptism as being valid."

Mathenia also sent a form letter to other pastors in Illinois, encouraging them to attend the state convention of the Illinois Baptist State Association to oppose the seating of messengers from Cornell Avenue "or any other church that may have a woman as their pastor."

Cornell Avenue is believed to be the only IBSA-affiliated church with a woman pastor.

Temple Baptist Church in Champaign, Ill., has had one or more women deacons since the mid-1970s, accord-

ing to the Illinois Baptist. Messengers from Temple church have never been refused seating at annual meetings of East Central Association (of which it is a member), or the IBSA convention.

Moon fights on

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (EP)—After a federal appeals panel, in a 2-1 decision, upheld the conviction of Sun Myung Moon for conspiracy and tax fraud, representatives of several churches vowed to continue to fight for a reversal of the decision.

Moon was convicted in May of conspiring to evade federal income taxes from 1973-75. He failed to report \$112,000 in interest from a \$1.6 million bank account and \$50,000 in stock held in his name. Moon maintained that the funds were entrusted to him as head of the church and that they were invested for the church, not for personal gain, and should not be subject to income tax.

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Religious educators

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association has announced that a fellowship luncheon for its members will be held Nov. 14, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. The featured speaker will be L. Gordon Sansing, entertainer-humorist. Tickets will be \$6.50 each.

Video awareness

A video awareness breakfast will take place Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7-8:30 a.m., in the Friendship Center of First Church, Jackson. This complimentary breakfast, which will offer information on sharing the gospel through video, requires a reservation to be made with Farrell Blankenship, director of broadcast services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800.

October gifts above \$1 million

October gifts to the Cooperative Program by Mississippi Baptist Convention churches totaled \$1,035,284, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The October gifts are \$31,704 more than for October of 1982 and raise the total for 1983 to \$12,310,619. The pro rata amount for 10 months is \$12,559,167, making the increase \$248,548 under budget so far.

The amount budgeted for 1983 is \$15,071,000.

"Nine out of ten months in 1983 have brought in Cooperative Program gifts of more than a million dollars," said Kelly. "It is this kind of bold giving that will make Bold Mission Thrust possible."

Among top ten

(Continued from page 1)
est percentage increases are mainly in the north—yet Florida is third and Georgia is eighth.

National rankings by percentage increase over 1981-82 were: (1) Northern Plains, 76.62; (2) New York, 65.48; (3) Florida, 24.85; (4) Nevada, 22.97; (5) District of Columbia, 14.65; (6) Maryland, 13.87; (7) Georgia, 13.86; (8) Hawaii, 13.3; (9) Arizona, 13.62; (10) Mississippi, 12.52.

Baptist leader hits TV show extolling gambling

By Tim Fields

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—ABC's new prime time television series "Lottery!" is a blatant misuse of the public airways, a Southern Baptist opponent of gambling has charged.

Larry Braidfoot, general counsel and director of Christian citizenship development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, is calling on 14 million Southern Baptists to send letters of protest to the show's sponsors and to ABC television.

In a letter to ABC President Frederick Pierce, Braidfoot said that by airing the new show the network has "either intentionally or unwittingly become an advocate of legalized gambling."

Braidfoot said his charges were substantiated by the show's executive producer, Rick Rosner, in an interview published in TV Weekly. Rosner is quoted as saying, "I think if we are successful, I think we will be a 60-minute commercial once a week for having a lottery. And I frankly see nothing wrong with that."

Braidfoot told the network executive the statements attributed to Rosner "are comments which one could expect from a gambling industry lobbyist."

"If Mr. Rosner had done his homework and incorporated it he would know that the lottery, like the illegal numbers game, is a parasite which preys upon the lower economic class of American society."

"The staff of the Christian Life Commission and many Southern Baptists do not regard 'Lottery!' as a responsible programming decision by ABC television."

In addition to writing letters of protest to sponsors, which change weekly, Braidfoot urged Southern Baptists to write immediately to Frederick Pierce, president, American Broadcast Companies, Inc., 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019.

(Fields writes for the Christian Life Commission.)

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\$25,000 scholarship honors Noonkester

Hattiesburg's fifth annual Hub Award has been presented to James Ralph Noonkester, and at the same time a \$25,000 Scholarship Fund was established in his name.

Noonkester, for 27 years president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, was honored by a fraternity of community leaders who annually present the award to one of Hattiesburg's outstanding citizens.

A native of Virginia, Noonkester is a graduate of the University of Richmond, and earned the master of theology and Ph.D. degrees from

Southern Seminary. Noonkester served as chairman of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Locally, he has been an active volunteer with the Salvation Army, the Forrest-Lamar United Way, and the Boy Scouts of America. He has received the Silver Beaver award from the Pine Burr Area Council, BSA, and won the 1983 Sales and Marketing Executives' "Man of the Year" award.

Noonkester serves on the board of directors of First Mississippi National Bank, Hattiesburg Concert Association, and the Forrest County Industrial Development Board.

The \$25,000 scholarship will go into the Carey College foundation to be used for academic scholarships presented in Noonkester's name.

Names in the News

Lester Hovis Miskelly, 70, died Oct. 26 at Tippah County Hospital. A retired engineer, he was a member of the Palmer Baptist Church, where he was adult men's Sunday School teacher and had served two years as Sunday School director. Services were Oct. 28 at McBride Funeral Home Chapel, Ripley, with Enoch Purvis officiating. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Bill Stark Miskelly of Ripley; a daughter; five sons; two brothers; one sister; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



MRS. GENEVRY D. ZACHARY was recently honored at First Church, Homer, La., when her pastor, D. Glenn Simmons, presented her with a 30-year perfect attendance pin. According to W. C. Fields, Nashville, this is the longest known perfect attendance record in the Southern Baptist Convention for all six church activities—Sunday School, morning worship, Church Training, evening service, Woman's Missionary Union, and prayer meetings. She was also presented a bronze plaque with the above information engraved on it. Mrs. Zachary, a native Mississippian, was a member of Taylorsville Baptist church and Second Avenue Church, Laurel, over 16 years.



MRS. MARIE MEGERHEE was recently recognized by First Church, Long Beach, for sixty-one years of service as a Sunday School teacher. This recognition was made at the Sunday School Teacher/Leader Appreciation Banquet where Keith Wilkinson, state Sunday School director, was guest speaker. Mrs. Megehee, who will soon celebrate her 82nd birthday, still teaches a class in the Senior Adult Department.



SHELIA LUMPKIN and LYNN BOLT, members of First Baptist Church, Picaune, spent eight weeks this summer in Uganda as volunteer missionaries working through Campus Crusade for Christ. There were 6,380 people reached through personal evangelism (one-on-one witnessing), with 984 decisions resulting. Shelia is a 1983 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and is teaching in the Picaune City School System. Lynn is a senior at USM.



FIRST CHURCH, Lexington, has ordained two to the gospel ministry. WAYNE HUDSON (left) is serving Pleasant Ridge Church in Lexington and Bobby Williamson (right) has been called as pastor of Mt. Vernon Church in Liberty. Hudson is also still fulfilling his contract as a coach/teacher at Central Holmes Academy. Williamson is a student at New Orleans Seminary, working toward a master of divinity degree. The ordination service took place during homecoming celebration. The ordination sermon was preached by a former pastor, Wayne Barber. Shown with Hudson and Williamson is Michael O'Brien, pastor of First, Lexington.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—H. Franklin Paschall, 61, president of the Southern Baptist Convention for two years (1966-68) and pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., since 1956 announced Oct. 30 he is taking early retirement effective Dec. 31.

Paschall stressed he is not interested and would not accept any "position" at another church or within the Southern Baptist Convention and his retirement ministry at large will consist "exclusively of preaching, teaching and perhaps writing."

Regina Garrett hasn't missed a single Sunday School lesson since she was five years old. She recently received her 19th perfect attendance pin. She is a member of Bethel Church, Union County, which she has attended all her life. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. John C. Cooper and she is married to Robert Garrett. She has a degree from Ole Miss and now works at First National Bank in New Albany. The New Albany Gazette carried a feature about her on Oct. 31.

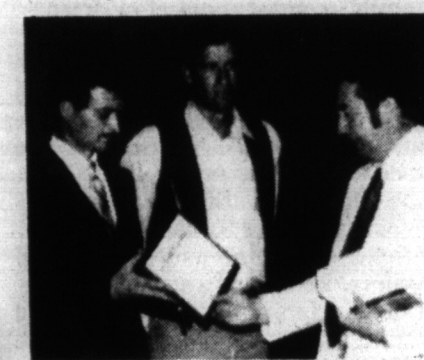
Archie Goodwin Jr. of Olive Branch was licensed to the gospel ministry on Sunday, Oct. 9. He serves as minister of music and minister of youth at Ebenezer Church, Senatobia.

Mike O'Brien, pastor of First Church, Lexington, was chosen Pastor of the Year for Holmes County Association for 1983. O'Brien was presented the award by Mrs. Malcolm Welch of West, chairman of the selection committee. The award was presented during the annual associational meeting on Oct. 11 at Oregon Memorial Church.

Lebanon Church, Tippah County, has ordained as deacons Oscar Stewart, G. L. Pannell, Stephen Walker, and J. R. Ralph. Bud Reaves is pastor.

First Church, Bruce recently ordained three deacons, Jim Henry, Roy McDowell, and Mike Young.

Jack R. Gazaway is available for supply preaching, interim pastorate, or full-time pastorate. He may be reached at Route 1, Box 137, Brooksville, Miss. 39739 or by phone by 738-4720. He has been licensed to the ministry.

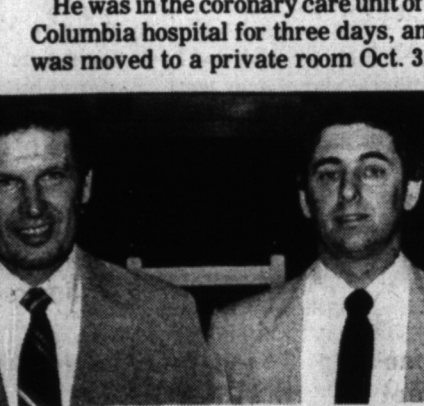


CHARLIE PASUER, left, has been licensed to preach by the Lebanon Church, Tippah County, near Ripley. The pastor, Bud Reaves, right, presented him a Bible commentary and certificate of license. At center is Bonnie Mauney, chairman of deacons. (Pasuer may be contacted by phone at 837-9628.)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)—Tal Bonham, 49, executive secretary of the State Convention of Ohio, is recuperating following a "mild heart attack" Oct. 28.

Bonham was stricken during the early morning hours following his return to Columbus from Vandalia, where the annual meeting of the state convention had concluded the night before.

He was in the coronary care unit of a Columbia hospital for three days, and was moved to a private room Oct. 31.



Churches served by Megginson in Mississippi were Beulah Memorial, Hinds County; Coldwater, Neshoba County; Rena Lara, Parkway, Natchez (which he organized), and Pineview, Jackson County. He served as director of missions in Riverside Association in Mississippi and in Union Association.

He is married to the former Cleo Faggard and has four children. He lives at 9685 Vickers Road, Semmes, Ala. 36575, (telephone 205-649-8796). After Jan. 1, 1984, he will be available for supply or any other ministry he may provide.



A GROUP OF 14 MEN FROM FIRST CHURCH, BRANDON, recently traveled to Gulfport to help make additions to the seamen's center at the Port of Gulfport. The men built a front porch and underpinned the mobile trailer. Pictured are Hayes Graves on top of the porch frame; Ed Bailey standing on the porch; Sonny Quinn, propped on post; and from left are Doug Gregory, Emmitt Williams, David Morrow, and Lawrence Moore.



THE JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE BSU entered a float in the homecoming parade that preceded the homecoming game there on Oct. 8. The theme was "The place to be in 83." The BSU float won first place in the organization division. The prize, \$15.00, was given to the Student Mission Fund. John F. Sumner, Jr. is the BSU director.

Ridgecrest will celebrate 30th

Ridgecrest Church, Jackson, a "Fellowship of Friendly People," will observe a three-in-one celebration Sunday, Nov. 20.

The church at 428 West Northside Drive will celebrate homecoming, 30th anniversary, and noteburning to signify debt-free status of the entire facility.

Speakers will include former pastors of the church, Fred Tarpley, retired; Earl Kelly, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Julius Thompson, consultant, Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Paul W. Stevens, current pastor.

Worship in music will be presented by Tom and Willa Moak of Bogue Chitto, and David and Ashley Worthington of Shreveport, La. Tom and David are former ministers of music at Ridgecrest.

Ridgecrest Church was chartered in May, 1953. First services were conducted in a small white frame house. Rapid increases in attendance made it necessary to erect a tent, and then to build. The church complex now includes a sanctuary, fellowship hall, library, offices, Church Training and Sunday School rooms and facilities, kindergarten and day care facilities, a family life center, and athletic field and playground.

A covered-dish luncheon and fellowship period will follow the morning worship service. There will be no Sunday night service.

Poland growth

PASADENA, Calif. (EP)—Evangelical churches in Poland are growing in substantial numbers, reports Walter Zurlfluh of the Eastern European Mission. "While previously there were only one or two baptisms a year in some churches, those same churches are now reporting a dozen or more annually," he said after a trip there.

He also noted a growing, widespread interest in the Bible among Poland's Roman Catholics. "Priests are requesting Bibles from evangelical pastors, even accepting Protestant editions when Catholic versions are not available," he said.

Megginson retires

After a ministry of 41 years as pastor, associational missionary, and evangelist, Ray Megginson has announced his retirement effective Dec. 25, 1983. His last pastorate was First Church, Spanish Fort, Ala., where he served for 12 years. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Churches served by Megginson in Mississippi were Beulah Memorial, Hinds County; Coldwater, Neshoba County; Rena Lara, Parkway, Natchez (which he organized), and Pineview, Jackson County. He served as director of missions in Riverside Association in Mississippi and in Union Association.

He is married to the former Cleo Faggard and has four children. He lives at 9685 Vickers Road, Semmes, Ala. 36575, (telephone 205-649-8796). After Jan. 1, 1984, he will be available for supply or any other ministry he may provide.



GIRLS IN ACTION AND ACTEENS OF TATE STREET CHURCH, CORINTH, were honored in a recent recognition service, which had as its theme, "We've a Story to Tell." GAs receiving Mission Adventure badges included: (first row) Kim Fuqua, Heather Burczynski, Emily Stokes, and Amy Kitchens; (second row) Kyra Fuqua, Erin Kealy, Dana Jenkins, Ellen Patterson, Lisa Horn, and Amanda Henderson. Acteens honored for achievements in Studia were (third row): Leslie McCoy, Connie Horn, and Sheri Miller (Queens); Cindy Burleson (Queen Regent-in-Service); Nancy Fowler, Dana Shadburn, and Aimee McCoy (Queens).



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER'S newly elected BSU council, composed of students from each of the four health related schools; Medical Technology, Radiological Technology, Respiratory Therapy and Practical Nursing, were making plans for the Religious Emphasis Week on Nov. 7-8. BSU council members seated from left are Jackie Hanchey; Sonya Smith; Mike Laster; Peggy Cameron, co-chairman of Religious Emphasis Week; Tammie Cahoon; Linda Turley, BSU president; Becky O'Quinn; Edwin Hilton; Donna Lewis; Randy Pittman; and Debbie Dorsey, co-chairman of Religious Emphasis Week. Standing from left are Lu Harding, MBMC assistant administrator, and Kathy Bearden, MBMC director of student activities.

Glaze represents college in mission emphases

During the past few months, A. J. Glaze, head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Mississippi College, has had the opportunity to represent the college in three unique mission emphases.

Through invitation from the Foreign Mission Board, Glaze spent a week during March in Barbados, the easternmost island of the West Indies, at Barbados Baptist College. Glaze's participation in the advanced level seminar included daily lectures from the Old Testament to approximately 50 pastors and missionaries. The purpose of the seminar was to give theological training to Baptist leaders in the Caribbean area.

In September Glaze was again invited by the Foreign Mission Board to speak at the International Baptist Seminary in Cali, Colombia. Countries represented from Central America were Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama. Delegates from the South American countries of Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela,

Argentina, and Chile were also in attendance at the week-long conference.

And during October the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma brought 35 pastors from Spain for revivals and conferences in the state. Glaze served as interpreter for Spanish pastor, Valentin Cueva of Valencia, Spain and his wife.

In addition to teaching on campus and lecturing at various events, Glaze is preparing "Introduction to Psalms" to be published in the spring issue of the Spanish theological journal *Dialogo*.

70th anniversary

Fayette Church, Fayette: 70th anniversary of the church; homecoming, Nov. 13; James Yates, former pastor (1964-68), to preach at the morning service; dinner served in Fellowship Hall; musical celebration at 1:30; Paul Pearson, pastor.

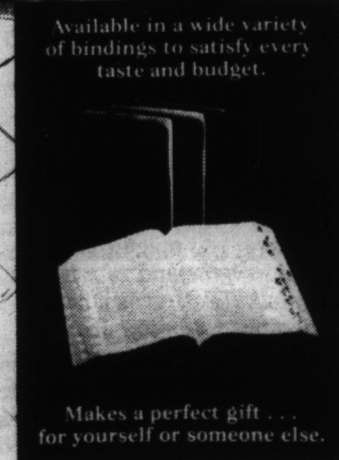
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Librarian builds books from 20 to 4,000

By Pat Young

Bess Boone has retired as librarian at First Church, Coldwater, ending 23 years of service that saw the library grow from 20 volumes to over 4,000. The church gave a reception Oct. 23, in her honor.

"Miss Bess" guided the library program to new quarters twice from its original home in a former pastor's study.

Today it is a pleasant place to browse and pick out a book, or even learn something about the history of First Baptist, Coldwater. Potted plants give it a comfortable look, as do the children's book displays and fresh flowers.

One wall has pictures of the church and congregation through the years. One picture shows the church before it was moved with the town in 1943.

Miss Boone was graduated from high school at the Academy of Baylor College in Belton, Texas. She went to Baylor University, but before graduation transferred to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where she received a music degree.

She has been a member of First, Coldwater, for 53 years. Her work there began when she was director of the junior Sunday School department for many years. She also sang in the choir and taught a children's training class. That work ended when she had to care for her mother after a fall.

When she was able to return to her church work, she taught a girls' Sunday School class. At the same time she was a YWA leader. Her car full of teenage girls was a familiar sight in Coldwater.



Bess Boone

Miss Boone started the church library in 1960 when Bob Phillips, pastor at that time, asked her to help start one. The library was then put into the church budget for the first time.

"The library department of the Sunday School Board gave us around 20 books to start," Miss Boone said.

Soon after the library opened, she would get young people to present skits during church services. She also had a promotional reading contests each summer. At the end of each contest, the participants would go on a trip. Trips included a river-boat ride on the Memphis Queen and a trip to Mud Island.

Miss Boone said she feels that membership in the Shelby County Baptist Library Council has helped the success of the library.

Regular staff-members, present and past, include Mrs. David Slocum, Mrs. Robert Miller, Mrs. Joel McAdams, Mrs. Ben Fore, Mrs. Fred Bardill, Mrs. Francis Wise, and Mrs. James Veazey. Many teenage girls have also been helpers.

For the past nine years the library has received the highest Achievement Recognition Certificate from the library department of the Sunday School Board, SBC.

Another area of service for Miss Boone has been directing the handbell choirs. She began the choirs in 1969, when she gave 37 handbells to the church in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Henry Boone. Since then she has worked constantly with the choirs, traveling extensively to clinics and workshops.

In 1976, one of her choir members, Billie Sue Earney, was the only handbell ringer from Mississippi to be chosen as a member of the Bicentennial Handbell Choir sponsored by the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. Miss Boone has also had two pictures of First Baptist handbell choirs published in *Overtones*, a worldwide magazine for bellringers.

She and her sister, Mrs. Margaret Dougherty, traveled to the Holy Land on Pat Boone's family tour. "Pat Boone and his family traveled with the group. Everyone kept asking me if I were Pat Boone's mother because we had the same last name," she said.

To Miss Boone the main function of a church library is to "meet the needs of people in Bible study."

(Pat Young is a member of First Church, Coldwater.)

Church honors former pastor

Williamsburg Church, Collins, will honor Gale Anderson, a former pastor, Nov. 20. Anderson, who recently retired after two years as pastor, will participate in a special celebration and note burning service. It was under his leadership that the church was able to retire a debt of \$20,000 on the new sanctuary.

The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include a message by Anderson, an extended musical program, recognition of the building committee, and recognition of senior church members. At noon, lunch will be served.

Minister dies

R. G. "Bob" Stewart, 63, of 228 Winfield St., Jackson, died Saturday, Oct. 29, at Hinds General Hospital. Services were held Oct. 31 at 1 p.m. at Lakeshore Baptist Church, Jackson, with burial in Jackson Memorial Park.

A native of Wheeling, W.Va., Stewart moved to Jackson in 1957 and had served as superintendent of the city of Jackson sign department while serving as pastor of several churches in the Jackson and Simpson County areas.

For the past five years, he was chaplain for the city of Jackson. He was a member of Lakeshore Baptist Church and a veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Stella Stewart; sons, Tech. Sgt. Robert G. Stewart of the U.S. Air Force at Keesler Air Force Base, Donald Stewart of Pearl, and Ron Stewart of Madison; and a grandson.

Jubilee planned

PRAGUE—Selection of a steering committee and definition of plans for a 100th Anniversary Celebration in 1985 were major agenda items for the annual all-Union assembly of the Baptist Union of Czechoslovakia Oct. 13-16.

About 1,000 Baptists came from all parts of the CSSR to attend the assembly sessions.

Revival Dates

Sunshine Church, between Pearl and Brandon: Nov. 13-16; 7 nightly; Sunday morning service at 11; Evangelist Lee Castro, preaching; Sam Creel, pastor.

Uniform

God's indwelling Spirit

By Clarence H. Cutrell, Jackson
John 4:24; 14:25-26; Rom. 8:9-17; 26-28

To understand how God relates to his people it is essential to know how the Holy Spirit relates to the Father and the Son, how he relates to us and what his work in and for us is intended to accomplish. Clear teachings about the third person of the Godhead have often been muddled and seldom more so than in recent years. There is urgent need, therefore, that we give the most earnest attention to this lesson.

1. **Arrival of another advocate (John 14:25-26).** Jesus, knowing that the time of his departure was near at hand, assured his disciples that they would continue to have the same kind of communication which they had enjoyed with him while he was present with them. To accomplish this, "another comforter" (v. 16) would be given. The word translated "another" means another of the same kind. So the Holy Spirit would stand beside them in Christ's stead and would be his representative. He would be their, as he is our, paraclete, counselor, helper, advocate as the word is variously translated.

The indwelling Holy Spirit is Christ in us, helping us to understand his word and enabling us to remember at strategic times in our lives those portions of his word previously committed to memory. The Holy Spirit always speaks to us the things that pertain to Christ. Never does he speak of himself. To honor the Spirit above the Son in any instance is blasphemy and not New Testament teaching. "So the Spirit is sent by Christ, is dependent upon him, and has as his one task to reveal Christ to men." W. T. Conner, *The Work of the Holy Spirit*, p. 84.

2. **All of the Advantages of Adoption (Rom. 8:9-17).** The lost man becomes a son of God by the help of the Holy Spirit. But this is possible only because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without these the Spirit would have been helpless. But without the Spirit we would never have come to Christ. Numerous statements in this passage bear out the fact that the Spirit in us is synonymous with Christ in us.

Verse 11 is an interesting study in the inter-relatedness of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and redeemed men who are made sons of God by adoption. It was the Spirit whom the Father used to raise up Jesus from the dead. The same Father, through the same Spirit who indwells us, quickens, or makes alive,



Washington County RAs helping

In picture, right to left, Roy D. Raddin, director of missions and James Kerr, Royal Ambassador director for Washington County Baptist Association, hold a proclamation that Mayor W. C. Burnley, Jr., has just signed proclaiming Nov. 6-12 as Royal Ambassador Week in Greenville. Kerry said that many R.A. chapters in the association will be helping celebrate the theme: 75 years—Missions only beginning. Many of the R.A. boys will be helping in their own churches during this week by reading scriptures, leading in prayer, taking up offerings, reading lists of the sick for prayer, helping and attending at Brotherhood breakfasts, and giving testimonies on what Royal Ambassador means.

Devotional

When Jesus gave thanks (I)

By J. Clark Hensley, Jackson

There are at least 137 references to Thanksgiving in the Bible. It is helpful to study four types of situations in which the gospel writers record Jesus giving thanks.



Hensley

Lesson was to teach FAITH in partnership with God instead of the "I can do it myself" attitude.

Why are we such slow learners? Why do we have to come to wit's end before asking for God's help. Upon receiving it, why don't we thank him for it?

Jesus gave thanks that God hears and answers prayer. See John 11:41. "Father, I thank thee that thou hearest me and I know that thou hearest me always." How do you pray? "Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless his holy name." What is there within you with which to bless the Lord? Doubts, fears, longings, thanksgivings? He has heard your prayer. Often my weary bedtime prayer is simply, "Thank you, Lord, for the day. Forgive me where I flubbed it. Watch over us while we sleep," and drifting off, I whisper, "Thanks." And morning comes. "Well, you did it again, Lord. You kept my name off the obituary list. So I'll just get up and go to work. Thanks!"

You may say, "Sometimes God doesn't answer my prayer." I submit to you that he does. Sometimes the answer is "Wait," and when it is, we should be submissive. Sometimes his answer is "No" or "Correct your prayer. You are asking amiss." We must be submissive at these times, too. But more often the answer is "Yes," and when it is, we should be grateful.

Life and Work

Bereavement

By Larry W. Fields, Harrisburg, Tupelo
2 Samuel 1:11-12, 17-18; 12:19-23

David responded to numerous crises in his life. Over the next five weeks we will observe how he responded to five of them. The first crisis area is bereavement. The context concerns the death of Saul and Jonathan in battle and the death of David's infant son.

Unless we experience the second advent of the Lord during our lifetime, physical death is inevitable. We, like David, have experienced the loss of family members and close friends. There is always a difficult adjustment. People respond to death in different ways. This Bible lesson will be helpful to us as we observe David's response and discuss how a Christian should face a time of bereavement.

(1) **David mourns for Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1:11-12)**

As a soldier he had experienced years of killing and watching men die. One would think that this background would have made him callous to the effect of death. Yet, we observe how he acted when news came about Saul and Jonathan.

David and his armies had just completed a defeat of the Amalekites at Negab, south of Jerusalem. At the same time Saul and Jonathan were in battle against the Philistines, north of Jerusalem at Gilboa. In this conflict, the enemy prevailed and Saul and Jonathan were killed.

It took a few days for word to come to David. A young Amalekite tried to gain favor with David by reporting the deaths, bringing some of Saul's personal effects to prove it, and falsely claiming that he had done it. He was executed for his duplicity and involvement.

David's response was immediate and visible. There was genuine grief and outward mourning. He rent his clothes as an expression of his sorrow. Many of us have received the same shocking news or we have been with others whose lives were shattered by the news of the sudden death of a loved one or friend. David and his men were not ashamed to express their grief. Neither was Jesus (John 11:39). We should see tears as God's way to release the pain and hurt inside.

(2) **David laments over Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1:17-18)**

One way to handle our grief is to participate in a memorial worship service to the memory of the deceased and the glory of the living Lord who provides eternal life to all those who believe. David broke into a lament over the tragic deaths of Saul and Jonathan. His elegy was built on the refrain, "How the mighty art fallen" (vv. 19,

Bibb to direct Yalobusha work

Marvin D. Bibb of Calhoun City, director of missions for Calhoun Association, recently began serving also as director of missions for Yalobusha Association.

He plans to visit the Yalobusha Association at least two days a month, he said.

Bethesda women sponsor deaf child at school

The Woman's Missionary Union of Bethesda Church near Terry has voted to sponsor a deaf child, through monthly contributions to the Magnolia Speech School for the Deaf in Jackson. Ashleigh Jones, 5, who is learning at the school to talk.

On Oct. 11, the Bert Bridges Circle of the Bethesda WMU met at the home of their pastor, Charles Gammel, and participated in a special missions program on the education of deaf children. The program was presented by Mrs. Anne Barlow and Johnny Hyde, who are on the staff of Magnolia Speech School. They and two deaf children, Melinda Kuhn and Scott Bailey, demonstrated the techniques used at the school in teaching the deaf to talk and to communicate with normally hearing people.

The WMU then voted to sponsor a child through contributions to the school to assist with the cost of her education. In this way, the women will participate in a local missions opportunity. Pastor Gammel said, "Other churches interested in expanding their local missions program to include deaf children should contact Johnny Hyde and Magnolia Speech School for the Deaf, 733 Flag Chapel Road, Jackson, Miss. 39209. Telephone 922-5530 for more information."



Ashleigh Jones

Bible Book

Faith vs. false religion

By Harry L. Lucenay, Temple, Hattiesburg
Colossians 2:6-23

The study this week emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ and condemns asceticism and ritual. The Christian life is shown to be a progressive pedestrian experience. Every step should be within the encompassing circle of Christ. Those walking, planted, and constructed in Christ exhibit a valid faith as they face the devil's assaults.

The superiority of true faith (2:8-15). Most heresies have a philosophic base. While philosophy may be defined as "the love of wisdom" in this passage it refers to "vain speculation." The Colossian heretics made the physical elements of the world the central theme of their worship. Any system, whatever it claims or pretensions, is to be rejected if it does not conform to the revelation which God has given men in Christ. Paul writes to say the totality of divine attributes were expressed in Christ. The fullness of God needs no supplement from intermediate agents.

Ceremonialism is not spiritually necessary because Christ died for man's sins. Circumcision represented the cutting away of man's uncleanness and was the outward sign of one's participation in Israel's covenant with God. It was physical. The circumcision which the believer experiences in Christ is spiritual and relates to one's inward being. Baptism is contrasted with circumcision and is a sign of spiritual regeneration. The law of God stated man's guilt for sin and demanded punishment. At Calvary man's sins were nailed to the cross and the debt cancelled. Baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and the believer in union with Christ.

The superficial nature of false religion (2:16-29). At the basis of religious life must lie the experience of salvation. The content of faith is not theories, visions, self-invented disciplines, but real events and substantial facts. Many folks fail to grasp the relation between shadow and substance. Men are not to make scripture say what they want it to say. They must let it say what it was meant to say. True faith has no need to invent a support system.

Paul wrote to a people who were tied to dietary laws of the Mosaic Covenant, festival days of the Jewish calendar and other rituals designed to enhance their faith. Some were worshipping angels. They had concocted a hierarchy of spirit beings which, in

their system, filled the whole universe. The angel choir was designed to solve the communication problem which existed between simple men and a holy God. Paul saw them pushing Christ out of his rightful place.

The heretics overvalued their emotional experiences and placed these visions on a higher level than historic faith. They were also inflated with arrogance. Paul saw the church as a body organically united and nourished by its firm adhesion to her living Head (Christ); not as a bundle of faggots mechanically held together by a common creed or theosophy. The passage says "Let no one lay down the rules as he pleases... let him toe the line with Christ."

The sterility of false religions (2:20-23). Only Christ can set men free through salvation. To die with Christ is to die to sin, law, self, flesh, and the world. It is to die to the former bondage of the systematic power of the universe. Rules, outward forms, are essentially of his world. The Christian life is regulated from an indwelling presence.

Paul's final thrust against this heresy is a direct denial of its claim. The heretics in Colossae supported rigorous devotion, mysticism, abasement, self-mortification and impressed people with their measure of religion by its forms and pain. The people of this day who practice asceticism have a reputation for spirituality, but their product does not live up to the promotion. Many people flock to hear gurus and eastern spiritual leaders whose teachings cannot change the human heart.

The power of Christ in the life of the believer does more than merely restrain the desires of the flesh; it puts new desires within him. As the Christian yields to the indwelling Spirit, he receives power for daily living. This power comes not through ceremonialism, mysticism or asceticism but through spiritual union with a living Christ. The consistent consequence of dying with Christ is, not to live any longer in the world subject to strange systems and spirits, but to seek the things that are above and enjoy the fullness of life hid with Christ in God.

Character is that which reveals moral purpose, exposing the class of things a man chooses or avoids.—Aristotle.